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SPACE PYRAMI

CAPT, MARVES

THENHAT SPACE CRIMINAL got away!" Lieutenant Jon Jarl muttered in disgust. The Space Policeman had been hot on the trail of Neptune Ned, the notorious space crook. But now, as Jon scanned his space radar

screen, there was no sign of the criminal's ship anywhere. But Jon Jarl sat up startled as something else was caught on his screen. It was a strange

triangular shape floating in space that puzzled Jon. Jon sent his ship in that direction and finally saw the object itself. "Great stars!" Ion exclaimed. "It's crazy!

How can that thing be floating there in empty space? It's a-a pyramid!" Yes, there it was, a huge stone pyramid, like those of antient Bryot! Jon Jarl had found

many strange things in space, but never a pyramid. What incredible mystery was this? Why was a heavy stone structure like that drifting through the void?

Utterly amazed, Jon landed his ship at the too and stepped out in his space suit. He lumned from stone tier to tier, speking some sort of entrance to the huge tomb. At last he found it, a wawning passageway leading in. Jon went down a long stone tunnel leading into the heart of the pyramid. Unknown hieroglyphics were cut into the walls. Age old hours silence surrounded him! It was weird and

Suddenly Jon's hair stood on end. There were footsteps behind him! Who or what could be alive in this tomb of the dead? Jon whirled with his ray gan, peering into the gloom, his heart pounding in dread.

"Don't shoot?" came a hurned voice. "It's only me-Professor Jason!" Ion lowered his sun with a relieved gasp as the other man came forward in his space suit, "Sorry," Jon said, "I didn't know anyons else had found the ovramid. I didn't see your ship parked outside. How did you bappen to stumble on this, Professor?" "I found a record of it in ancient documents," the other answered excitedly, "A race

of pyramid builders lived on an seteroid thou-

sands of years ago, just like the Egyptians of Barth. But the original asteroid itself is gone. It slowly crumbled away into cosmic dust for some reason, thus leaving this sturdy pyramid floating in empty space. It's one of the wort amazing events in all history?" The professor waved eaverly, "I was just exploring it when you came, Officer, Want to toin me? This is sensational, exploring a space

pyramid tan thousand years old! Somewhere we'll find the ancient burist room of their kings. And who knows? Maybe fabulous Jon nodded and went along, also thrilled by the whole thing. Besides, he wanted to be

aure the professor was safe. Sometimes unknown dangers lurked within old relics of this

Suddenly, a chilling mosn pierced the dead allence, vising to a wild shrick like a lost soul waiting. They stopped dead, in fright. Jon auddenly remembered all those stories of evil "curses" that haunfed pyramids on Earth The professor laughed, shakily, "Oh is's only the wind whistling."

"Wind?" grunted Ion, "There is no wind in space! But I'm willing to go on if you are. They went on Another ghantly shrick rever-

becated through the walls around them, has they kept going doggadly. At last, in the center of the pyramid, they emerged into a huge chamher and encountered a breath-taking sight There were a hundred stone coffine there, row upon rowl The lids were of clear glass, and they could age the dead bodies of the ancient people! The whole chamber was crusted with "Astounding!" breathed the professor.

"Look, those bodies are perfectly preserved by the coldness of space! Why, they almost

look as if they could come alive!" The professor squinted at a stone tablet

"Professor, what do the writings there say?" carved with hieroglyphics, but shook his head. "Too much ice and frost over them. I can't

make it out." "I'll soon fix that," John said, unhooking the atomic heat lamp from his belt. It was small but it threw far more beat than a dozen big furnaces. As its radiations spread through the frozen chamber, the ice began to melt and

dribble away The professor could read the hieroglyphice now. His voice was stunned. "Why, this is called the Tomb of the Living, not the Dead! These usonle knew their world would crumble into nothing, so they buried themselves alive in this pyramid, using cartain ambalming fluids that kept them in suspended animation. And

they boged that somebody would find them and revive them someday?" "That's us!" Jon said. "We'll revive them. The heat will bring them around. But they also need air to breathe, so here goes an air

The air bomb was another emergency item carried by the Space Police. As it exploded in the whole chamber was heated and serated But the ancient people did not revive. They lay still, unmoving, unbreathing, not a muscle

stirring. Jon and the professor stared sadly at "I guess it was too much to hope for," the professor said. "After ten thousand years Jon made another find, a hure stone chest crammad with sparkling gold and sawels, "The

tressure of the ancient people. It's yours, professor, and . . ." But a ghastly voice interrupted, reverberat-

ing from the walls. "Baware i I am the curse of the tombi Do not touch the sacred treasure! Fies, before you die horribly! Fies, fies!" The professor shricked, his nerves riving

way at the eerie tones of warning, "The place is cursed! Let's get out of hera! "Don't be silly." Ion said, evabling him "! don't beliave in curses." "Th-then what is it?"

"That's what I'll find out?" Jon crept among the coffins warily, his ray gun ready. But in the gloom he failed to see the dark figure that swung a gun butt at him, knocking him sown, spinning the gun from his hand. When Jon staggered up, he faced the ray gun held by a

"Neptune Ned, the space crook!" Jon "Yesh," grinned the criminal, "It's me, I found the pyramid, too, and figured it as a good hide-out first. So when you and the professor explored, I made those waits and mount,

and the voice of the curse, trying to scare you away. But now I'll bump you both off, I'm Ion and the professor feced death at the

hands of the ruthless crook. His oun was simed at them, ready to blast! But suddenly, a nearby coffin creaked. The lid was slowly

raised. One of the ancient pyramid men age up, like a corpse coming to life, A shrisk of dismay tore from the crook's throat at the halr-raising sight That was all that Jon Jarl needed. He leaped

The gun spun away. The space crock and the was not long before Jon Jarl slammed his I.I. the antient messale were reviving now. In the heat and air, sitting up and star-

"They came alive after all?" velled the provive, thet's all. Welcome to 2261 A.D.f"

"Welcome is right?" Jon murmured earnestly. "We saved them from deeth, and they

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